

Collection Development

This is an overview and brief explanation giving insight into the library's plan to offer the most current and useful information in a variety of formats. This section also provides a look at eBooks as an important library resource.

Plan Overview

The Miami-Dade Public Library System Collection Development Plan serves as a guide for the selection and retention of materials for the Library System and is designed to support the Library's Mission Statement. The mission of the Miami-Dade Public Library System is to provide materials and services for the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the residents of the County, which includes groups and individuals with widely differing interests and needs. The materials collection of the Miami-Dade Public Library System must reflect this diversity to serve the residents of Miami-Dade County regardless of age, race, language, creed or political persuasion. Each individual library is a part of the Miami-Dade Public Library System, and librarians have a dual responsibility when selecting materials to fill both the needs of the local neighborhood served by that branch and the needs of residents of the entire Miami-Dade County community. The Miami-Dade Public Library System must keep abreast of demographic changes and projected changes in local neighborhoods as well as in Miami-Dade County as a whole.

One important aspect that affects the decision-making process of collection development is budget. A budget that is significantly lower than it has been in recent history creates great challenges in balancing all of the components of the process to create a truly responsible and effective collection development plan. Experience is another variable that is used in collection development planning. Unless special circumstances intervene, monies are allotted by material type to each branch library based on the circulation of the material type for that branch. Additionally, data from a branch survey is compiled and used throughout the year to guide the selection of materials for the branches. Although MDPLS has always considered community make-up as a critical element of the materials selection process, in recent years, demographic studies for each branch library have been used as a selection guiding tool as well.

Materials selection takes place in a variety of ways. Most selection is done centrally by the Collection Development team, which is made up of staff from the Collection Development, Main Library Youth Services, Main Library Reference, and Connections Departments, and the Collection Development Administrator.

When selecting eBooks, in addition to the general criteria for selection, the following criteria are taken into account: format, usage statistics, and price. The biggest two challenges faced in purchasing eBooks are the unavailability of bestselling titles from publishers who will not sell to libraries and the ratcheted cost of some of the publishers who will sell to libraries but at a premium price.

An Online Product Review Committee reviews the current collection of electronic databases that the Library makes available to the public to determine whether the Library funds are being used as effectively as possible in this area.

Patrons are invited to offer suggestions for purchase via a form on the MDPLS website. Collection Development staff monitor the suggestions and include them, when appropriate, in the regular ordering process. Holds queues for items that the Library owns are also monitored. Generally, budget permitting, when the holds ratio for a title is ten requests per item owned, additional copies are ordered.

Public Service staff continue to follow internal collection maintenance guidelines. Replacement copies for weeded areas may be requested and may be ordered as the budget permits. Staff are cautioned against doing heavy weeding at a time when the materials budget is at its current level.

Another aspect of collection maintenance is the ongoing upkeep of the bibliographic database, which includes deleting bibliographic records that no longer have item records, deleting withdrawn items, and authority cleanup. These important tasks are performed as staffing permits.

eBooks and MDPLS

As a greater variety of published books become available electronically, and as better, less expensive devices enjoy a surge in popularity, library users are increasingly turning to eBooks as their reading format of choice. This past fiscal year saw a 34 percent increase over the past fiscal year of eBooks checked out through the MDPLS website.

This trend can be attributed to several factors. eReaders are compact, lightweight and portable, and a single device can hold thousands of traditional text-based eBooks. Library patrons who check out eBooks from MDPLS do not incur overdue fines because eBooks disappear from the patron's reader when the loan period expires. Once the eBook is "returned" to the library, it is immediately available for checkout--no time wasted in returning it to the shelf or transporting to another branch library. Additionally, eBook theft is not an issue. Another advantage to eBooks is that patrons do not have to make a trip to the library to check them out. Also, most eReaders allow for the capability to enlarge font sizes, effectively increasing the number of large-print books being made available to library users.


On the down side, not all titles are available in digital format, and several publisher embargo their titles, that is, they do not issue their digital versions when they publish the print books. Although libraries receive discounts from publishers when purchasing print books, they do not receive any such advantage when it comes to eBooks. For one thing, vendors charge an annual hosting fee for their eBook platforms. Additionally, several publishers, such as Random House, ratchet the price of the books they make available to libraries, so that a book that costs the average consumer \$17 in print and \$11 on Kindle will cost the library \$84. This becomes problematic when Random House books hit the bestseller list, and the waiting list for the digitized title contains 100+ library patrons.

Another challenge facing libraries is that printed books can be purchased and lent, but publishers treat digital content differently as do the companies who manage digital content licensing (e.g., Overdrive).

Libraries do not own the actual eBooks; they are paying for the license to make the titles available to their patrons. On top of that, some publishers will only license the eBooks for a limited number of uses and/or a limited amount of time (one or two years). For example, Penguin Publishing, which resumed making its titles available to Overdrive customers in September 2013 (after an almost two-year hiatus), only licenses eBooks for one year. This means that libraries will have to pay for the book annually (possibly at increased prices) if they wish to continue to make them available to their users. Finally, there are publishers who do not make their eBook titles available to libraries at all, so that library patrons must either check out the print version of Henry Holt and Co. bestsellers such as Bill O'Reilly's latest or purchase it for themselves. The monthly Douglas County Library Report (see below) gives pricing comparisons of current best-selling books both in print and eBook and also illustrates that some best sellers are not available to libraries.

Several reports and articles have been written on the ever-evolving issues surrounding eBook publishers and their relationships with libraries. A very recent update is available at

Greenfield, Jeremy. "What's New With Libraries And Ebooks? In Conversation With The American Library Association." *Forbes*. *Forbes Magazine*, 03 Oct. 2013. Web. 26 Oct. 2013. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jeremygreenfield/2013/10/03/whats-new-with-libraries-and-ebooks-in-conversation-with-the-american-library-association/>

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div> Douglas County Libraries Report Pricing Comparison as of October 2, 2013 </div> </div>									
	BOOKS				EBOOKS				
	Library Pricing		Consumer Pricing		Library Pricing		Consumer Pricing		
	Baker & Taylor (1)	Ingram (2)	Amazon	Barnes & Noble	Overdrive	3M	Bilbary	Amazon	Barnes & Noble
Top 25 e-book best sellers (Digital Book World)									
1 Doctor Sleep	\$16.62	\$16.50	\$17.55	\$17.90	*	*	*	\$10.99	\$10.99
2 Husband's Secret	\$14.38	\$14.27	\$15.57	\$15.88	\$15.99	\$15.99	\$12.99	\$5.99	\$12.99
3 Longest Ride	\$14.96	\$14.85	\$15.24	\$15.54	*	*	*	\$10.99	\$10.99
4 Orphan Train	\$8.99	\$8.84	\$8.99	\$9.53	\$12.99	\$12.99	\$10.99	\$8.54	\$8.54
5 Never Go Back	\$15.51	\$15.40	\$16.80	\$17.13	\$84.00	\$84.00	\$13.99	\$10.99	\$10.99
6 Killing Jesus	\$15.51	\$15.40	\$16.80	\$16.96	*	*	*	\$11.99	\$14.99
7 W is for Wasted	\$16.04	\$15.92	\$17.37	\$17.54	*	\$18.99	\$14.99	\$10.99	\$10.99
8 Out of Line			\$8.09	\$8.99	*	*	*	\$0.99	\$0.99
9 Divergent	\$9.97	\$9.89	\$12.78	\$12.90	\$7.99	\$7.99	\$9.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
10 Gone Girl	\$13.85	\$13.75	\$12.84	\$14.04	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$12.99	\$10.99	\$10.99
11 Thankless in Death	\$15.48	\$15.37	\$16.77	\$17.04	\$18.99	\$18.99	*	\$10.99	\$10.99
12 Fault in Our Stars	\$9.97	\$9.89	\$9.24	\$10.58	\$15.99	\$15.99	\$10.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
13 The Cuckoo's Calling	\$14.40	\$14.30	\$15.19	\$15.34	\$78.00	\$78.00	\$12.99	\$5.99	\$5.99
14 Insurgent	\$9.97	\$9.89	\$9.24	\$10.58	\$13.99	\$13.99	\$12.99	\$6.99	\$6.99
15 Safe With Me			\$9.72	\$9.72	*	*	*	\$3.99	\$3.99
16 Fifty Shades Freed	\$9.57	\$9.41	\$8.19	\$10.04	\$47.85	\$47.85	\$10.17	\$7.78	\$7.78
17 The Final Cut	\$14.93	\$14.82	\$16.17	\$16.33	\$15.99	\$15.99	*	\$9.99	\$9.99
18 Inferno	\$16.59	\$16.47	\$14.09	\$16.82	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$12.99	\$10.99	\$10.99
19 Envy	\$4.79	\$4.83	\$6.78	\$7.99	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$2.99	\$4.74	\$4.74
20 Simple Perfection	\$9.00		\$9.00	\$9.18	*	*	*	\$3.99	\$3.99
21 The Quest	\$14.40	\$14.30	\$15.60	\$15.91	\$66.00	\$66.00	*	\$10.99	\$10.99
22 The Shining	\$9.57	\$9.41	\$11.56	\$11.79	\$23.97	\$23.97	\$7.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
23 Allegiant (due out 10/22; preorder prices)	\$11.07		\$11.99	\$12.22	\$15.99	**	**	\$9.99	\$9.99
24 Mistress	\$15.51	\$15.40	\$16.24	\$16.56	\$84.00	\$84.00	*	\$11.04	\$11.04
25 And the Mountains Echoed	\$16.04	\$15.92	\$14.87	\$16.26	\$15.99	\$18.99	\$12.99	\$10.99	\$10.99
9/29/13 issue (ebook) http://www.digitalbookworld.com									
* Not available for sale ** Not available for sale at this time 1 Discounted pricing as advertised on website 2 Actual									
Douglas County Libraries is the public library of Douglas County, Colorado, headquartered in Castle Rock, CO. Our annual collection budget (2013) is \$3.4 million. We serve a population of just under 300,000. For more information, contact Karen Gargan, Associate Director of Finance, kgargan@dclibraries.org . www.DouglasCountyLibraries.org									